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TO: Senator Winfield, Representative Sandstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write to you regarding HB-6355. I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut and am now 81 years old and retired. I practiced law in New Haven and Orange for more than thirty years. I served as the Chairman of the Orange Human Services Commission and as chairman of the Board of Gaylord Hospital. I represented the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center for more than twenty-five years, which is located in New Haven in an area that has seen more than its share of gun violence. I have seen the growing damage inflicted on children and families by the use of firearms.

I totally support HB-6355 and urge its passage. We must do everything in our power to reduce the access to guns by those who exhibit violence, whether they act under the influence of drugs, alcohol or suffer from severe emotional problems. This is not an issue of due process, but an overriding issue of protecting the public. Courts have continually ruled in favor of the public interest and public safety in such cases so long as there are reasonable safe guards to prevent abuse. It is far better to move in favor of safety than to risk one life.

Kindly vote for the Bill.

Edward H. Cantor